

REMARKS

Claims 3-7 are pending and under consideration in the instant application. Claim 5 is allowed. Claims 3, 6 and 7 have been finally rejected for the reasons set forth below. Claims 3 and 7 have been amended. These amendments do not introduce any new subject matter, and support for them can be found in the specification. After entry of this amendment, Claims 3-7 will remain pending.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 7 because it is a repeat of Claim 6. Applicants have amended Claim 7 so that it now depends on Claim 5. In light of the amendment, Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner's objection to Claim 7 is now moot and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 3 because of the term "or" at the end of the definition of  $R^{4a}$  and  $R^{4b}$ . Applicants have amended Claim 3 to remove this term. In light of the amendment, Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner's objection to Claim 3 is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner notes that the variables b, m, r and s are indefinite, because they are not defined on the formula III. Applicants have amended Claim 3 wherein the variables m, r and s have been deleted. Applicants have also inserted the definition of variable b, originally found in Claim 1 as filed. Applicants respectfully contend that these amendments merely correct unintentional typographical errors that occurred when Claim 1 was canceled and Claim 3 was made independent and amended. In light of these amendments and cancellations, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

If a telephonic communication with the Applicants' representative will advance the prosecution of the instant application, please telephone the representative indicated below. Applicants believe no additional fees are due but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this response to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

By

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